

Mr. President, Brother McGinnis has distinguished himself through his impressive academic and professional achievements, as well as through his dedicated service to the community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brother Michael McGinnis on his induction as President of La Salle University.●

RECOGNIZING THE CITIZENS AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize a volunteer group of West Virginians who have joined together to educate the public on an important issue affecting our state and the nation. These individuals, who have formed Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, CALA, are disseminating information to the public about our civil justice system, and they are working to encourage jury service and personal responsibility in our society.

CALA spokespersons based in Huntington, Charleston, Bluefield, Logan, Bridgeport, Fairmont, Morgantown and other cities in our state are educating the public about how lawsuit abuse can affect consumers. The CALA groups in West Virginia have raised funds to provide scholarships to students statewide through essay contests where the students address the important topic of jury service and personal responsibility.

Teaching our children the value of civic responsibility is a vitally important component of learning, and CALA's efforts have not gone unnoticed. By emphasizing the virtues of jury service, CALA is helping to give our children a more well-rounded education and is promoting values which will serve these children, and our future, well. I am proud that many of West Virginia's finest students, from our public and private secondary schools, have participated in these essay contests and have been recognized for their efforts in our local media. The winning high school essayists in last year's CALA scholarship contest were Joshua Linville, Sherman High School, Boone County; Amanda Knapp, Pt. Pleasant High School, Mason County; Matthew Walker, St. Joseph Catholic High School, Cabell County; Courtney Ahlborn, Parkersburg South High School, Wood County; Sarah Mauller, East Fairmont High School, Marion County; and Misty Lanham, Tygarts Valley High School, Randolph County.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse groups have declared September 19 through 25 to be "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week" in West Virginia. I commend the citizens for their dedication and commitment and to acknowledge this week as time of public awareness on the various issues affecting civil justice in our state. Our citizens

should be encouraged to educate themselves about our civil justice system and how they can help to make it the best in the world.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHIEF JACK KRAKEEL

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge one of Georgia's outstanding civil servants. On August 29, 1999, Jack Krakeel, Director of Fayette County's Fire and Emergency Services, was named Fire Chief of the Year by the International Fire Chiefs Association. This award is a fitting honor to a man who, through his hard work and leadership, has provided Fayette County with a superior fire and rescue team and has devised innovative methods to deal with emergencies.

Under Chief Krakeel's leadership, Fayette County's emergency services have found creative solutions to deal with ever-changing challenges. An important program implemented by the Department requires cross-training of employees. All career members of the Fayette County Department of Fire and Emergency Services are trained as both firefighters and paramedics. This gives the department incredible flexibility when dealing with severe emergency situations.

Fayette County, Georgia, is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. In response to this rapid increase in demand for services, Chief Krakeel has developed plans implemented by the Fayette County Board of Commissioners which will maintain an average emergency response time of five minutes. In a business where the difference between life and death is often measured in seconds, the importance of this initiative cannot be underestimated.

Chief Krakeel's department also recognizes the need to inform families, particularly children, on the importance of fire safety. Under Chief Krakeel's leadership, the department was the first in the state to enact a multi-family housing sprinkler ordinance and also created a portable fire safety education home which teaches children how to escape from a fire.

Jack Krakeel has also serves in a variety of leadership roles related to emergency services. He is the national Chairman of the National Fire Protection Association's "Technical Project in Emergency Medical Systems." Also, Chief Krakeel is in his third year as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

On a more local level, Chief Krakeel is a member of the Georgia's Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, and is in his twelfth year of service with the organization. Not long ago he helped lead the formation the joint EMS Committee of the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs and the Georgia Firefighters Association.

Other accomplishments during Chief Krakeel's impressive career are too numerous to mention. It is not an exaggeration to state that few people have had a greater individual impact on modern emergency service techniques than Chief Jack Krakeel. Mr. President, I offer my congratulations to Chief Krakeel for the honor bestowed upon him, and my hopes that he will continue to provide innovation and leadership for years to come.●

MR. K. PATRICK OKURA

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, this coming weekend a long time friend of mine, Mr. K. Patrick Okura, will be celebrating his 88th birthday. For the past decade, Pat has been extraordinarily active in guiding the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation in order to ensure that young Asian Pacific American health professionals, representing a wide range of disciplines, will have the skills and experiences necessary to eventually achieve leadership roles throughout our nation's health and human services agencies. Pat obtained his baccalaureate and master's degrees in psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles and has long been a member of the American Psychological Association which recently published a special article highlighting his monumental accomplishments. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the National Mental Health Association, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and the Japanese American National Museum. He is a past-President of the Japanese American Citizens League and founder of the National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse.

In July of 1971, during the Presidency of Richard Nixon, Pat assumed the position of Executive Assistant to the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, NIMH. For the next decade, he remained at a high level policy position within the NIMH, shepherding to fruition numerous innovative mental health initiatives. He was an active participant in the deliberations of President Carter's landmark Mental Health Commission. For many of us in the U.S. Congress, those were the glory days for mental health. There was a sense of genuine excitement and optimism. Our nation was finally beginning to understand and appreciate the social and cultural aspects of health care, not to mention the importance of ensuring that all Americans should receive necessary care. Under Pat's leadership, our nation truly committed itself to the far reaching "deinstitutionalization movement," an effort which would eventually bring mental illness out of the closet and ensure that all of our citizens would retain their individual civil liberties, notwithstanding any particular diagnosis, lack of economic resources, or lack of immediate family.

During the mid-1980s, Pat went on to serve as Special Assistant to the President of Hahnemann University, once again with a unique focus on those projects and events that made the university the great educational institution that it was. As I have already indicated, for the past decade Pat has continued to "give back" to our nation by ensuring that future generations of Asian Pacific American health professionals will begin to appreciate their potential for excellence in leadership. Having had the opportunity of personally meeting with his Fellows as they come to Capitol Hill each year, I must say that I have always been extraordinarily impressed by their dedication and commitment to our nation. Pat Okura has truly been a visionary role model for all of us and the ultimate public servant. I wish him the best on this truly special occasion.●

THE INGHAM COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION 25TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate the Ingham County Women's Commission, as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary.

The Ingham County Women's Commission has taken great strides to meet the needs of women since it was founded in 1974. The commission, originally established to serve as a study and research center focusing on the issues concerning women in the county, was restructured in 1976 and took on an advisory role to the Board of Commissioners. They now focus on issues that impact the women of the county. They have continued their efforts in researching better ways to meet the needs of women through county resources.

What is truly remarkable about this select group is their dedication to helping enrich the lives of women. They work closely with the Equal Opportunity Commission to overcome discrimination against women. The commission also provides many important and beneficial services to women. Their greatest accomplishments include involvement with the New Way In and Rural Emergency Outreach and the provision of acquaintance rape education for high school students. Additionally, they have experienced vast success in helping raise awareness of women's issues by developing a sexual harassment policy for county employees, sponsoring the Ingham County Sexual Assault Task Force and the Michigan Council of Domestic Violence.

This important group of women are to be commended for their accomplishments over the last 25 years. Their hard work and dedication to conveying the importance of women's issues will benefit many women for years to come.●

LANE KIRKLAND

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, earlier today, there was a memorial service for former AFL-CIO president, Joseph Lane Kirkland, on the campus of Georgetown University. I was deeply saddened to hear of Lane's passing and would like to reflect for just a few moments on his life and his enormous contribution to organized labor in America.

Lane Kirkland spent virtually his entire working life in the service of his country. As a young man, he enrolled in the first class of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and served the duration of World War II as a transport officer. Following the war, Lane went back to school, taking night classes at Georgetown, and received a degree in foreign relations in 1948. He intended to enter the foreign service and represent American interests abroad, but shortly after graduation he took a low-level research position with the American Federation of Labor.

That seemingly temporary sidestep would become the consuming mission of his working life. An unlikely labor leader, born of a well-to-do southern family and schooled in international relations, Lane became a strong advocate for justice in the workplace and a champion of human dignity. From 1948 until, some would say, the day he died, he fought for working people—for higher wages, better health care, and greater protections for workers health and safety. It is a credit to his skill, intellect and unflagging determination that he was elected president of the AFL-CIO in 1979, a post he faithfully held for 16 years.

Lane was a titan of the American labor movement. A man of great personal strength, Lane used his talent and energy to act upon his convictions, uniting people of diverse backgrounds and improving the lives of countless working families across this country and around the world. During Lane's tenure as president, organized labor faced ever-increasing challenges which called for strong, decisive leadership. With union membership declining across the country, Lane fought successfully to unite the Nation's largest and best-known unions under the AFL-CIO, guaranteeing the continued vitality of organized labor and ensuring it a position in American political discourse well into the 21st century.

His vision for trade unionism did not stop at the water's edge. Under Lane's stewardship, the AFL-CIO reached out to workers around the world. Like few others at the time, Lane understood the global struggle embodied in the cold war. He was a man of great insight, and he realized that a fair workplace could be used as a lever to create a fairer society. Ardently anti-communist, Lane believed personal freedom was the right of every man, woman, and child and saw the union as

a vehicle of freedom. Thus, he supported trade unions in China, Cuba, South Africa, Chile, and Poland, where unions were severely suppressed and personal freedoms denied. When Solidarity assumed power in Poland, Lane's faith in the power of trade unions and lifetime of work to build them were irrefutably vindicated.

With Lane's passing, a bright light for trade unions has been extinguished. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Irena, and his family.●

TRIBUTE TO LANE KIRKLAND

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, over the August recess South Carolina lost one of her most distinguished native sons, Lane Kirkland. Unless you knew Lane personally, you weren't likely to know he was a proud South Carolinian. If you did know him personally, there was no way not to know he was a proud South Carolinian. He went to South Carolina regularly; sometimes to see his brothers Ranny and Tommy, sometimes just to go to the wonderful small town of Camden where he spent his childhood summers. Whenever we would meet, officially or not, we always spent some time talking about South Carolina.

Lane remembered and cherished his roots, but they did not bind him. He had grown up with people who could not see through their rich heritage to the future. Lane was acutely aware of this trap and he illustrated this brilliantly in a commencement address to the University of South Carolina in 1985.

I owe to Sidney Hook a thought that I offer as my final conclusion from all this. From him I learned the difference between a truth and a deep truth. A deep truth is a truth the converse of which is equally true. For example, it is true, as Santayana said, that those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it. Yet it is equally true that those who do remember the past may not know when it is over. That is a deep truth.

Lane Kirkland was a complex person as evidenced by his many contradictions. He was a Southerner who found his education and opportunity in New York; he descended from planters but had his first success as a sea captain; he was a child of privilege who became a self-described New Dealer; he was an intellectual who fought for miners and mill workers; and perhaps most importantly, he was a liberal anti-Communist.

Lane had many triumphs in his life, but none was so important as the leading role he played in the liberation of Eastern Europe and the fall of the wall. He committed the resources of the American labor movement to preserve Lech Walesa and Solidarity. The New York Post wrote that "Kirkland must be included among a select group of leaders—including Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II and Lech Walesa—